

CfP: Audionarratology: Interfaces of Sound and Narrative

Jarmila Mildorf & Till Kinzel (Paderborn)

International and Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Paderborn, 11-12 September 2014

Confirmed keynote speakers:

Elke Huwiler (Amsterdam)

Alan Palmer (Durham County)

Sound and narrative pervade our lives from an early age onwards. The voice of our parents reading bed-time stories to us, the favorite song lyrics that form the soundtracks of our lives, the audiobooks we listen to when we need an alternative to reading stories, the radio plays we hear when tuning in to our favorite radio station, the sound effects and music that intensify our emotions when watching a movie. There are boundless examples for the ways in which sound and narrative intersect. It is these interfaces we want to explore in more depth during an international and interdisciplinary conference to be held at the University of Paderborn from 11 to 12 September 2014. Sound in this context incorporates the whole spectrum from structural sound, as in music, to noise or prosodic features of voices, for example. The proposed research paradigm operates on the boundaries to related fields such as literature and music or narrative and intermediality. Unlike the former, audionarratology focuses more strongly on the relationship between forms and functions of *sound and/as narrative*. In contrast to the latter, it narrows down its interest to aural media and to oral/aural channels in other media, thus shifting emphasis away from typical questions concerning text-image relations and the visual in recent cultural studies. Some of the main questions we would like to address are: How does sound highlight and support narrative structure in aural genres such as audiobooks, radio plays or songs? What happens if the narrative voice of fiction is given a real voice in audiobooks or, more generally, in stories that are read out loud? How do listeners respond to such voices? In what ways can sound performances be or become narrative in nature? How do narrative texts provide templates for sound effects? How is sound verbally encoded in narrative texts?

Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Forms and functions of voice and sound in aural genres such as audiobooks or radio plays
- Voicing the 'narrative voice': reading out loud and its narrative effects
- Oral performance, sound effects and narrative in audio-visual media
- Music, sound and narrative in songs
- Musical adaptations of novels and stories
- Sound effects in hypertexts
- The sound of silence in narrative
- Sound and voice in (narrative) poetry
- Mishearing and narrative misunderstanding
- Sound, voice and narrative affect
- Exploring the boundaries between aural genres

Please send abstracts of no more than 300 words and bios to jarmila.mildorf@upb.de and/or till.kinzel@gmx.de. The deadline for abstract submissions is 30th September 2013.